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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 1st March 1902.

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II.—Home Administration.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

275. The following is taken from the *Bengalee*:— Bengalee, 22nd Feb. 1902.

A suggestion.

"We are told that the work of the High Court is heavily in arrears. Might we be permitted without disrespect to make a suggestion? The High Court, in view of the arrears, should continue to sit every Saturday. Why the High Court Judges of Calcutta should have an extra holiday of fifty-two days in every year is what we fail to understand. It means the making to the Judges of a present of about six thousand rupees every year; and inasmuch as there are thirteen Judges, it means an annual loss of seventy-eight thousand rupees to the public exchequer. This extra holiday should, we think, be given up by the Judges of their own motion. They need no hint from the Government of India"

276. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:— Amrita Bazar Patrika, 24th Feb. 1902.

A Subordinate Judge of Barisal.

"A Subordinate Judge of Barisal, it is alleged by the local paper *Bikash*, showed extraordinary nervousness when one Mr. Wetherall appeared in his court. In the account we could see nothing that could be brought as a charge against the Subordinate Judge. His fault was that he showed some consideration to the European which he would have not done to a native."

The *Patrika* does not wonder at this conduct of the Subordinate Judge considering the humiliations heaped by European officials on Native officers, and denounces the conduct of the *Bikask* for thus ridiculing one of the community.

(d)—*Education.*

277. Commenting on the importance attached to the efficient manage- Indian Mirror, 22nd Feb. 1902.

The Principalship of the Bethune College, Calcutta.

ment of the Bethune College, the *Indian Mirror* strongly represents the claims of Miss Surabala Ghose, B.A., to the appointment of Principal of that institution. She has already acquired a close intimacy with the nature of the Principal's duties by having twice officiated in that capacity, and is pronounced to be the fittest candidate for the vacancy. The increase of responsibilities during the officiating period also entitles her to claim a corresponding increase of pay.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has very wisely vetoed the proposal to appoint a male Principal, and it would be improper to import a European Lady Principal from England, when there remains a properly qualified Indian lady on the spot, who will be a fit successor to Miss Bose.

278. This speech, in the opinion of the *Indian Nation*, was not exactly Indian Nation, 23rd Feb. 1902.

The Viceroy's Convocation speech.

cast on the lines of a Convocation Address; but nevertheless it was full of sound sense and conveyed instruction which would benefit the young and the old alike. His Excellency's advice to those who intended entering the legal profession was not generally agreed with, but regarding His Excellency's note of warning to those who were going "to enter the honourable profession of journalism," the *Nation* writes:—

"The general principles here laid down are unexceptionable, and we are afraid the advice is a little more urgently needed for the native press than for the English or even the Anglo-Indian. The native press, at any rate the English section of it in Bengal, is not remarkable for strength. It is conducted by men some of whom are young and wholly raw and some of whom are not of the highest education. The want of respect, which shows itself in petulance and insolence, is an appreciable evil, noticeable specially in the young. That journalists are not always judicial in tone or temper is not much of a reproach. A journalist is after all only a critic, only a member of the opposition. He cannot shake himself free from the bias of his school or class. A little vehemence of language is pardonable in him, provided of course it means no malice. And there is an obvious distinction between pardonable warmth of language in the expression of a sentiment and an ill-natured attack on a person or even on the Government."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 24th Feb. 1902.

Indian Sanitation and English Education.

279. To thoroughly understand and observe the principles of sanitation, the *Hindoo Patriot* is of opinion that Indians should have some of the Western energy and Western notion of cleanliness of surroundings infused into them from an early age.

The present system of education in school and at home is found to be defective in many essentials of practical wisdom. The mind is imperfectly trained, and notwithstanding the multiplicity of subjects taught, some very important matters useful in daily life are neglected. A more extended knowledge of sanitation and hygiene is wanted, and to this end the journal advocates English being more largely resorted to as a medium for imparting instruction. The vernaculars while cultivated should not be made to supplant English.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 26th Feb. 1902.

The Education Commission and Educational reform.

280. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* makes the following remarks with regard to the present system of education which is being enquired into by the Education Commission.

"The Government should have no hesitation in changing the method which is emasculating and killing our hopefuls. In short the Government should revive the Hindu system, namely, that every reasonable facility ought to be given to our students to prosecute their studies and obtain their diplomas. Not to mince matters, the impression is that the reason why the Government is interested in limiting the number of graduates is that they would form a discontented lot if they were not provided for. The Government, however, should have no fear that if it allowed a large number of students to secure diplomas they would take possession of Fort William if they did not get employment. Of course there would be discontent if the number of educated classes were increased and they were to starve, but that discontent exists even now. The impression now is, not to mince matters again, that it is only to restrict the number of successful students, that they are required to pass so many examinations, and the examinations are made so difficult."

(e)—*Municipal Administration and Local-Self Government.*

BENGALEE, 22nd Feb. 1902.

The contract for the new municipal buildings.

281. The *Bengalee* is glad to find that the Municipal authorities have discovered that, as suggested, there were legal difficulties in the way of depriving the Indian firm whose tender for the construction of the new municipal offices was lowest of the contract; and that it has been resolved to call for fresh tenders. It hopes that, as in the case of the Town Hall repairs estimates, which began with a modest figure of a few thousands and ended with a total not much less than a lakh, history will not repeat itself in regard to the new municipal office building contract.

BENGALEE, 27th Feb. 1902.

The re-organization of the License Department.

282. While expressing approval and satisfaction in the development of the decentralization scheme of Municipal Government in Calcutta, the *Bengalee* regards with suspicion the proposal to amalgamate the License Department of the Corporation with that of the Assessor and distribute the establishment over the four District Offices already formed. The abolition of what is pronounced the most efficient of the Municipal Departments is objected to on the score of economy, as two different sets of men would have to be employed for the two different kinds of work. Two kinds of assessments cannot be properly done at one and the same time, and work would be hampered if performed together by one man.

The journal advises the postponment of the further development of district organizations until the District Offices have been more thoroughly organized.

INDIAN MIRROR, 28th Feb. 1902.

Plague in Calcutta.

283. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror*:—

"We do not care to be prophets of evil. But we should be failing in duty if we disguised our alarm at the ascendency of plague in Calcutta, as seen in the published reports of the Corporation. The daily mortality from plague now averages between thirty and forty. There is every reason to believe that the plague cases will multiply. Are the Chairman and Health Officer of the Corporation prepared to deal effectively with the danger which threatens all Calcutta?

(g)—Railways and Communications including Canals and Irrigation.

284. The *Bengalee* says that the Indian community are deeply grateful to the Viceroy for the concession His Excellency has granted, viz., latrine accommodation in third and intermediate class railway carriages in all trains running long journeys.

BENGALEE, 23rd Feb. 1902.

Latrine accommodation on third and intermediate class railway carriages.

285. The following is taken from the *Bengalee*:—

"Now that His Excellency the Viceroy will very shortly visit the town of Murshidabad, we desire to draw His Excellency's earnest attention to the deplorable condition of the river *Bhagirathi*. The bed of the river has undergone a serious deterioration, and the river that once scattered plenty over a smiling land through which it passed, and bore on its bosom the trade and traffic of Bengal and Northern India is now a dwindling rivulet associated with disease and pestilence—the source of a hundred ills to people dwelling on its bank. The improvement of the bed of this river is intimately connected with the maintenance of the Hooghly. We desire to draw His Excellency's attention to an article quoted elsewhere from the *National Magazine* entitled "A Dying River," which discusses the question in all its bearings. We understand the people of Murshidabad will draw the Viceroy's prominent attention to this matter, and we hope and trust it will receive His Excellency's serious consideration."

BENGALEE, 23rd Feb. 1902.

The river *Bhagirathi*.

286. This railway has already done much to promote the comforts of passengers, writes the *Indian Nation*, but there yet remains another improvement to be effected, viz, the provision of special carriages for railway employés who travel with passes. First-class passengers and natives travelling intermediate or third class have nothing to fear, as in the former case railway officials are socially fitted to travel in that class, and in the latter case Europeans and Eurasians have a separate compartment reserved for them. "The real difficulty is in the second class. Respectable Europeans and Natives travel second class, and it not unfrequently becomes unpleasant for them to be associated with railway servants, many of them of low class, who make themselves objectionable and cause much annoyance. The *Nation* also asks that rules be framed confining ladies to the carriages specially reserved for them by the authorities, as at present the indiscriminate way in which they occupy carriages prevents male passengers from entering.

INDIAN NATION, 23rd Feb. 1902.

The East Indian Railway.

The necessity of providing waiting-rooms for native females is again urged.

INDIAN MIRROR, 27th Feb. 1902.

287. In referring to the Presidential Address at the annual meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the *Indian Mirror* agrees with the Hon'ble Mr. Turner that the Howrah Railway terminal station must be enlarged and improved to meet modern requirements, and does not understand why Government should not sanction for the purpose ten or twelve lakhs, which is a third of what was spent for the Victoria Terminal Station at Bombay.

The Howrah Railway terminal station.

288. The *Bengalee* publishes an extract from a Samastipur correspondent's letter complaining against the heavy license fees levied on Indian sweetmeat vendors by the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company. It supports the writer's suggestion that some trusted member should ask in the Supreme Council for a year's statement showing the amounts levied both from Hindu and Muhammadan vendors of eatables at all Indian Railway stations, in comparison with what is similarly levied on account of rents, &c., from keepers of Refreshment Rooms for Europeans.

BENGALEE, 27th Feb. 1902.

Railways and Indian sweetmeat vendors.

The journal understands that the Eastern Bengal State Railway proposes to levy a nominal rate of one rupee as license fee, and hopes that all other railways will follow this example.

(h)—General.

289. The following article is taken from the *Indian Nation*:—

"It is unfortunate that the Viceroy's Convocation speech came so soon after his reply to the Tea Association. The reply is of course not a personal letter of the Viceroy's, but it embodies the substance of his opinion. If a

INDIAN NATION. 23rd Feb 1902.

The Government letter to the Tea Association.

perfectly judicial, unbiased spirit is desirable in journalists, it is an even more essential qualification of the Government. And that letter to the Tea Association is really a deplorable document. It has been written without apparently calling for a note or explanation from Mr. Cotton. It practically admits all the charges made by Mr. Cotton against the planters, and yet decides the case in favour of the planters because the charges are not universally true! We desire to impute no motives, but we think we discover something like a 'lawyer's argument' in the letter. It has a great deal of 'refining,' all in favour of the planters."

BENGALEE, 25th Feb. 1902.

Ram Narayan Das, a Sub-Overseer in the Dibrugarh Local Board.

290. In connection with the case of this man, who was tried on a charge of abetment of cheating in respect of a bill for Rs. 479-14-2 presented to the Chairman of the Dibrugarh Local Board, for work done in sinking a well in Kalakhua Matakgaon, the *Bengalee* writes:—

"We presume it is of little use to call His Excellency the Viceroy's attention to the facts disclosed by this 'scandalous and discreditable' case. The authority of the Chief Commissioner has been publicly superseded in matters where the interests of impartial Government clash with those of the tea-industry, and the Indian Tea Association, to whom Lord Curzon looks for assistance, are hardly likely to busy themselves in disturbing an arrangement which is obviously so convenient to members of the Anglo-Indian community, who tender for Local Board contracts at Dibrugarh. But the facts are on record nevertheless, and coupled with those of the Lyall case, furnish a striking commentary on the state of things which the present Chief Commissioner has been trying to remedy. His reward has been a public rebuke from the Government of India and vilification of the most outrageous character from the planters' organs in the Press."

INDIAN EMPIRE, 25th Feb. 1902.

Evils of magisterial tours.

291. Referring to the hardship caused to the people through whose villages the Magistrate and his greedy following pass, owing to articles of food being taken gratis or for a very inadequate consideration, the *Indian Empire* points to another serious evil attending magisterial tours. A circular issued by Sir Alexander Mackenzie while at the head of the Bengal Government, deprecating the hearing in camp of cases instituted at the head quarters is not observed, with the result that parties are greatly inconvenienced by being required to be the camp followers of the Magistrate, sometimes with their legal advisers. This should be checked to prevent a repetition of an incident similar to the one disclosed in the petition to the High Court of Suba Gope and Roman Gope, prisoners in jail, whose appeal was dismissed by the District Magistrate of Monghyr while in camp 22 miles from head-quarters. Neither the counsel nor the two mukhtars engaged by the petitioners had any notice as to the time and place fixed for the hearing.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 25th Feb. 1902.

Mr. Caine and the poverty of India.

292. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reproduces Mr. Caine's recent speech in the House of Commons, and remarks that Lord George Hamilton has mercilessly thrown overboard Lord Curzon by discrediting the facts and figures furnished by him, upon which Mr. Caine proved the growing poverty of India.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 28th Feb. 1902.

Ibid.

293. Referring to the petition presented to Parliament by Mr. Caine, for the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the effects of the existing system of administration in India, the *Hindoo Patriot* agrees that by this means alone can a thorough investigation be made into the economic conditions of the country.

It recommends however that official members be included in the Commission, as experienced men like Mr. Romes Chunder Dutt would be able to enlighten the Commissioners about different branches of administration which require improvement.

The so-called prosperity which meets the eye is deceptive, and Raja Peary Mohan Mukerji's first note of alarm has gained strength both here and in England, till the actual state of affairs can no longer be kept back from public view.

The remedy suggested by Lord George Hamilton for the evil is legisation for restricting alienation of land on the lines adopted in Punjab and Bombay, but the effect of this will be the total destruction of proprietory rights of land-owners.

294. The *Indian Mirror* criticises Lord George Hamilton's reply to Mr. Caine and the poverty of India. Mr. Caine's amendment to the address on the subject of India's poverty and the indebtedness of the Indian agriculturist. Mr. Caine, it remarks, obtained a moral victory, and for once Lord George Hamilton felt the ground sinking from under his feet. It meets his Lordship's statement that, despite chronic famines, the Indian budgets show increasing surpluses, by pointing out that his Lordship cannot be ignorant of the methods adopted by certain joint-stock companies to declare big dividends for some years, and then, all without warning, comes the smash. In the same manner, the *Mirror* fears the supposed recuperative force of the Indian people will one day suddenly fail, and then the crash will come and the British Indian Government will have to go into liquidation. As to the present chief sources of income, the land tax, opium and spirituous liquors, the journal regards the two latter sources of revenue as wholly sinful. "The opuim revenue increases year after year, which indicates the demoralising and poisoning of more human lives than ever. And this is "Prosperous India!!" But there is such an institution, after all, under Providence as the Moral Government of the Universe. Our sins find us out sooner or later. And when the day of reckoning comes, how will the British people justify their enrichment by revenues raised from sinful sources." INDIAN MIRROR, 28th Feb. 1902.

295. Commenting on the interest excited in England by Mr. Caine's motion in Parliament about the increasing poverty and taxation in India, the *Indian Mirror* states that the fact has come home to the English public that this country is not the El Dorado they had once imagined, but a very poor country after all, which the methods of British administration made every day still poorer. Want of money to purchase food and not deficient rainfall alone, is responsible for famine. *Ibid.* INDIAN MIRROR, 1st March 1902.

The journal appeals to Lord Curzon to solve the Indian poverty question by dropping official optimism and studying counter criticism, for even among "agitators" there are some well-informed and honest men. Officials by their acts and speeches compel criticism, and they cannot claim to be infallible. Prompt relief to the distressed people is gratefully recognised, but the Government should devise methods which shall make relief unnecessary.

296. In the course of a lengthy leader on the subject of the want of sympathy in the British character, which leads England to believe "that no other nation or race is entitled to civic or religious liberty," the *Bengalee* admits that in India she has done great things for the people and given them much, but whatever she has given them has been given with a good-natured contempt, which could not but take away from the value of her gifts. Her undisguised contempt weighs on the minds of the people, and they perceive that she looks upon India as a commercial investment merely. Want of sympathy in the British character. BENGALEE, 23rd Feb. 1902.

297. Continuing its observations on the want of sympathy in the British character, the *Bengalee* in this morning's leader, portrays the Englishman as he travels through the continent of Europe, displaying his ill-disguised contempt for foreign ways and institutions and accumulating for himself a store of passionate hatred in the hearts of his neighbours, which will one day prove a source of danger to himself, and as he is in India, whose civilization he dispises and whose dark people he dislikes. Pride of race is the direct cause of that exclusiveness which stands in the way of Euglishmen understanding the needs of the people of India, stands in the way of their governing them wisely and well. There is not much love lost between Englishmen and Indians in spite of two centuries of British rule, and the loyalty of the Indians is based on no higher feeling than that of a selfish interest. *Ibid.* BENGALEE, 26th Feb. 1902.

"The anomalous spectacle," concludes the writer, "is therefore seen in India of two peoples living side by side, owing allegiance to the same sovereign, having many interests in common, yet living separated from one another by feelings and sentiments which have created a gulf between them which is almost impossible under present circumstances for any human power to bridge over."

HINDOO PATRIOT, 26th Feb. 1902.

Mr. Digby's indictment.

298. The *Hindoo Patriot* condemns the attitude taken by Mr. Digby in the paper which he recently read in London, and regrets that an experienced writer should have chosen such an objectionable title as "The ruining of India."

The title is pronounced mischievous, and the way in which the situation is dealt with is such as cannot induce deliberate judgment.

When there is room for the expression of opposite views by able men accustomed to exercise judgment upon matters coming under their notice, intemperate language employed against the "prosperity-mongers" only damages the cause.

In contradiction to Mr. Digby, the journal states that the average income of the people has increased instead of decreased, but distress is due to the cost of living having increased beyond proportion to the rise in income.

Messrs. Digby and Thorburn's charge imputing the impoverishment of the people to the peculiar system introduced by the British Government should be thoroughly investigated for humanity's sake and the credit of the Government.

BENGALEE, 26th Feb. 1902.

Representation of India in Parliament.

299. Criticising the Duke of Argyll's article that India does not need to be represented in Parliament, but is content to have her real wants presented to the India Council in Calcutta and in London, the *Bengalee* says that the Indians have no confidence in the India Council in London, and are not prepared to regard the councils here as patterns of infallibility. The hope of Indians lies in the generous initiative of British statesmen, in the sympathy of the British public, who will soon be ready to extend to India the blessings which have made England what she is. Indian officials who constitute the councils, wedded to routine and saturated with local prejudices which the environment of their situation must create, are not the men, says the writer, to conceive those fruitful ideas which are calculated to add to the happiness or the liberty of large communities.

BENGALEE, 28th Feb. 1902.

A Commercial Bureau.

300. With reference to the proposal to establish an Indian Commercial Bureau in India with a Director-General of Commerce at its head, the *Bengalee* heartily supports the proposal, but would have such a Bureau help and foster purely Indian Commerce and indigenous industries, which are fast dying out.

BENGALEE, 28th Feb. 1902.

The Coronation Darbar.

301. The *Bengalee* concludes a lengthy article on the approaching Darbar with the following appeal:—

"We appeal to His Excellency to follow the precedents of the past, which are in entire conformity with the highest considerations of statesmanship. Let the great Darbar, which is to be held on next New Year's Day in the presence of the Heir-apparent to the Throne and presided over by one of the ablest Viceroys India has ever had, let this historic Durbar held under such auspices represent a new landmark in Indian history, associated with a great and forward step towards the gradual but complete redemption of the gracious promises contained in the Queen's Proclamation."

HINDOO PATRIOT, 1st March 1902.

Ibid.

302. The *Hindoo Patriot* wonders why Calcutta was not selected, instead of Delhi, for the celebration of the Coronation of the King. However that may be, it is sure that Bengal will not only not be behind her sister province, but will surpass them in her expression of loyalty and enthusiasm.

As His Majesty's Coronation will be a suitable occasion for conferring an inestimable boon as a token of royal favour, the *Patriot* suggests that the boon should take the form of a *well organised constitution for India.*

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 28th Feb. 1902.

A shooting case.

303. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—

"The latest 'shooting accident' comes from Naigaum. Here are the particulars:—

"Yesterday afternoon (February 26th) Mr. J. DeSouza, aged 24, a carriage examiner in the G. I. P. Railway, F. Pirries, aged 30, and Baza Boezi went out to shoot wild fowl near Naigaum Tank on the Naigaum Road. It appears that while Pirries was loading a gun, a double-barrel fowling-piece belonging to DeSouza's brother, it went off accidentally with the result that a Hindu lad, named Dhondia, aged twelve years, was shot in the abdomen. The boy was removed to the J. J. Hospital, were he died a few hours after admission.

"The boy Dhondia was a domestic servant in the employment of one Daina Ganoba, residing in Naigaum Cross Lane.

"The other day we noticed a case supplied to us by our Gouhati correspondent, in which a European manager of a tea estate took a cooly on a tree for a bear and shot him dead. Now, in the present case we are told that the gun went off accidently and the shot killed the boy. We are quite willing to admit that these regrettable incidents were due to 'accidents'; but surely some drastic steps should be taken to put a stop to them, for they are getting very frequent. One way is to punish the delinquents severely, and the other is to disarm those who cannot handle guns properly."

The Plague in Allahabad.

304. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* learns that plague is "decimating" the town and suburbs of Allahabad, and is dissatisfied that the Government is not supplying information of the fact to the public. It asks if this is due to the Government being afraid to give the information, since it has nothing to say except that the people are dying like fleas and it has done nothing to afford them protection. It next asks whether the careful removal of the dead bodies, the free use of disinfectants, prompt medical aid—all these measures are being carried out.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 1st March 1902.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

The education of Indian Princes.

305. Reverting to the question of the education of Indian Princes, *Reis and Rayyet* complains that it is the curse of the East to keep the Chief ignorant of his own affairs and to train him in luxury that he may have no time to attend to them. The pride of being supreme and superior to all destroys the faculty of inquisitiveness which all children show in an extraordinary degree. Enquiry is thus stifled, and the future Ruler of a State remains a child with undeveloped brains all his life.

Everything depends on the selection of a tutor, and this responsible duty should not be left to Junior Officers in the Political Service or their head clerks. The superstitions which the Princes imbibe through ignorance result sometimes in the utter ruin of their prospects. Their primary education based on solid foundations can alone avert such a catastrophe and enable them to judge for themselves instead of depending on ignorant astrologers and wily courtiers.

A knowledge of the Revenue Regulations is necessary for a Maharaja to be rid of the innumerable middlemen and establish direct communication between his treasury and the cultivating raiyats. This as well as a proper legal training should form important items in the higher studies of the future Rulers of Indian States.

REIS AND RAYYET, 22nd Feb. 1902.

The Raja of Cochin.

306. The *Bengalee* learns that the Raja of Cochin has outcasted Mr. Ramuni Mennon, who has just returned home after studying in England. The journal deplores the reactionary example set by the Raja, who is sufficiently enlightened to employ an English Dewan for the administration of his State, and asks "What is the English Dewan doing? He, at any rate, ought to be able to keep the Raja straight in a matter like this."

BENGALEE, 28th Feb. 1902.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The reason why Government is criticised.

307. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* attributes the constant criticisms to which Government and its officers are subjected in the Indian papers to their policy of distrust, suspicion and uncharitableness.

A veil of secrecy hangs on the doings of even a petty official like the Sub Inspector of Police in the North-Western Provinces, for he is allowed to maintain a "confidential book" which none but Police Superintendents and District Magistrates are authorised to see. Even Judicial Magistrates have been deprived of the power of examining these books, which allow the subordinates to stab and backbite recklessly with impunity.

The journal advocates the abolition of all such books maintained by any officer of Government, and considers that their acts should be above board.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 22nd Feb. 1902.

EAST, 22nd Feb. 1902.

Lord Curzon and the Native Press.

308. The *East* exhorts all those who would be journalists to pay heed to the words of Lord Curzon and avoid exaggeration; for "this sort of exaggeration is not only foolish in itself, for it weakens the force of writing, but it is often unfair as an interpretation of public sentiment."

BENGALEE, 22nd Feb. 1902.

Ibid.

309. The *Bengalee* regards it as a matter of regret that His Excellency in his Convocation Address did not refer in ampler terms to the service rendered to the Government by the Native Press. To avoid the creation of an unfair prejudice in the European mind against the Native Press in India, it suggests that an early opportunity be taken to present the other side of the shield. It asks if it is all the fault of the press that they assail the Government and ascribe motives to it; if it is in human nature to attack those who are friendly and sympathetic, and if the attitude described by His Excellency is not largely due to the attitude of the authorities themselves? It has no hesitation in saying that it is the unfriendly and, at times, the positively hostile, attitude of Government officials which determines the attitude of the Native Press. It asks for friendliness and greater sympathy; it begs in fact for an order from the Viceroy to officials subordinate to him, that they are not to regard Indian Editors and pressmen as veiled seditionists or disguised rebels, but to treat them as helpers and coadjutors in the difficult task of administration.

The *Bengalee* passes to the different treatment the Government accords to the European sections of the Press in India, especially when it is backed by the all-powerful Chamber of Commerce, and finds it impossible to accept with complacency such an invidious and irritating distinction.

It goes on to say that it is the policy of the Government which the Indian press opposes which brings the Press and the Government into collision. The policy of the Indian Press is India first for the Indians and next for Englishmen. The policy of the Government, which, of course, the responsible rulers of the land will repudiate, is India first for the Englishmen and next for the Indians. The measures of the Government point to this policy and none other. Hence the conflict. As regards the recognition of native talent and character, the *Bengalee*, in conclusion, asks about the fate of Vidyasagar, Bunkim Chunder Chatterji, Hem Chunder Banerji, Michael Madhu Sudan Dutt, and Nobin Chunder Sen among others. "Only the other day the Government of India formulated a Resolution which affirmed the policy of the exclusion of the children of the soil from the higher appointments in the Minor Civil Services. The Native Press protested against it, but it protested in vain. It is still in force. Indians are excluded not because they do not possess the necessary qualifications, but because they are Indians."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 24th Feb. 1902.

Ibid.

310. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, in a lengthy article, asserts that Lord Curzon availed himself of his Chancellor's speech to contradict the *Pioneer's* insinuation that Sir F. Fryer's extension of service was a plan formed by Goverument "to keep Mr. Smeaton out of Burma." Having denied the allegatiou, Lord Curzon, it says, proceeded to accomplish his primary object, which was to express his disapproval of the Native Press by denouncing a "leading newspaper" for accepting, unhesitatingly, the *Pioneer's* malicious version instead of "thinking the best."

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* does not doubt that Lord Curzon has endeavoured to raise the reputation of Government, but now and then "facts which give a rude shock to the feelings of the people" are wont to ooze out.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 25th Feb. 1902.

Ibid.

311. The following article is taken from the *Hindoo Patriot*:—

"The Convocation speech of His Excellency the Viceroy has roused the Indian Press. The remarks have not been taken in the spirit in which they have been made. The critics, instead of frankly admitting the offence against the good taste they have committed, are aggravating their offence by adversely criticising Lord Curzon's remarks. His Excellency complimented the Indian Press by saying it is steadily gaining ground as regards sobriety and wisdom. Lord Curzon will be justified in changing his opinion after perusing the criticism on his speech by some of our contemporaries. We deeply regret this attitude of our brethren. Criticise the Viceroy's remarks by all means, if you do not approve of them,

but we are bold to say that criticisms should never go beyond the limits of journalistic propriety."

HINDOO PATRIOT, 26th Feb. 1902.

Indian progress.

312. The time has arrived, writes the *Hindoo Patriot*, when India should shake off her lethargy and keep pace with modern civilisation. There is no reason to suppose that natives of India are wanting in endurance and skill, but until they rise above the old world institutions which have been obstructing their intelligence, India can never hope to materially advance. They have not learnt that it is organisation and combination alone that have made the West the most powerful and wealthy of nations. The defect in our national character we deplore can, to a certain extent, be eliminated in one sphere of activity at least by organising an extensive system of credit. In other words we must realise the paramount importance of fostering mutual confidence. It is by means of credit that immense wealth has been accumulated in Western countries. "There are many commodities," says the writer of a pamphlet entitled "Wealth in India," "which until recent years, have been overlooked in the category of things which form wealth, such as bills, notes, cheques, bonds, obligations, and all things embraced in the great system of credit, all of which are part of the circulating medium and, like money, lead to other commodities an exchangeable value."

BENGALEE, 26th Feb. 1902.

The Viceroy's visit to Murshidabad.

313. The *Bengalee* hears from its Berhampore correspondent that the Magistrate of Murshidabad has issued a memorandum directing all title-holders and Gazetted Government Officers to attend at the Palace of His Highness the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad to welcome His Excellency the Viceroy. This memorandum having caused much heart burning among respectable people who are not title-holders, but who wish to show their loyalty, the *Bengalee* urges its withdrawal.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 27th Feb. 1902.

Newspapers and the law of libel.

414. In congratulating the Editor of the *Madras Mail* on his acquittal, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—

"The conviction of the *Mail* by one Magistrate, following so soon in the heels of the conviction of the *Patrika* by another, should create consternation in the ranks of the Indian newspapers. These cases show how helplessly does the press in India, both Indian and European, lie at the mercy of the Magisterial officers in this country. It is quite true that both the *Patrika* and the *Mail* came out safe in the end. But at what tremendous cost! The *Patrika* had to spend thousands and travel 700 miles to a strange place, in a bad state of health, with almost all its establishment in consequence of this case. And the *Mail* said, in one of its issues, that it too had to spend thousands to conduct its case before the Magistrate. We are writing a history of our own case, which we intend publishing in a pamphlet form. We hope the *Mail* will also do the same. For the protection of independent journalism in this country, the facts of these two cases should first be published as wide as possible; and the entire press should next approach the Government with suggestions to safeguard its interests.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 27th Feb. 1902.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

315. Referring to the Hon'ble Mr. Turner's speech at the annual meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the *Hindoo Patriot* says:—

"The Chamber is doing good work—work which will be of incalculable benefit to the whole country. We earnestly wish our important Native Associations would follow the lead of the Chamber in this matter. They ought to give up internal strife, and set themselves to work and thus justify their existence.

"We have for some time noticed with regret that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce does not now take that keen interest in political movements which it used to take before. It associated itself with the premier Political Association of Calcutta, and took an active part in all agitation which was calculated to secure public benefit. The Chamber was looked upon as not only a commercial, but also as a great political Association. In important political questions, the Government sought and respected its advice, as it did of the British Indian Assocciation. It was due to the late Mr. Clarke that the Chamber gained a political status. Mr. Clarke used to say that the Chamber was growing too powerful, and that a balance was required to keep it steady. It was for

creating and preserving this balance that he earnestly endeavoured to associate the British Indian Association with the Chamber in all important political movements. He realised that such combination would be for mutual benefit. Men of position and influence in both European and Indian communities were brought together, and they cordially worked together. Mutual esteem and cordiality were established, and the *rapprochement* of the two communities was all but complete. Has the policy of the Chamber now changed its character? Has the Chamber now decided to look after only commercial interests, and to leave to our political Associations the work of guarding our political rights? If such be its decision, all we can say is that we deeply regret its present attitude."

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 1st March 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Inspr.-General of Police, L. P.

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